

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02318 120938Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /074 W
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R 120859Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2623
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL KERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
UMISSION USUN 643

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2318

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLO, JO
SUBJECT: KHALID FAHUM ASSERTS PLO WILL GO TO GENVEA IF INVITED
BUT WILL NOT AGREE TO BE REPRESENTED IN UNIFIEDDELEGATION WITH JORDAN

1. REGULAR PALESTINIAN SOURCE ASKED PNC CHAIRMAN KHALID FAHUM
APRIL 10 WHETHER PLO WOULD GO TO GENEVA IF INVITED. WHEN FAHUM SAID
YES, HE THOUGHT SO, SOURCE ASKED, "ON BASIS OF 242?"
FAHUM REPLIED THAT INVITATION TO PLO TO PARTICIPATE WOULD
IN AND OF ITSELF SUPERCEDE UNSC RES. 242 AND ESTABLISH NEW
BASIS FOR MEPC. FAHUM WENT ON TO SAY THERE COULD BE NO
UNIFIED PLO-JORDANIAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA MEPC. KING
HUSSEIN WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS FORMULA AND NEITHER WOULD PLO.
IN FAHUM'S VIEW, IT REPRESENTED ATTEMPT BY SADAT TO "WASH
HIS HANDS" OF PLO ISSUE AND PLACE ONUS FOR SETTTLING IT ON
JORDANIANS AND PALESTINIANS.

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2. SOURCE ASKED FAHUM ABOUT PNC LEADER'S UPCOMING TRIP
TO JORDAN REPORTED IN APRIL 9 SYRIAN PRESS (AL-THAWRAH
CITED PALESTINIAN SOURCES IN AMMAN THAT FAHUM WOULD ARRIVE
THERE APRIL 12 AT HEAD OF PLO DELEGATION TO RESUME
JORDANIAN-PLO DIALOGUE INITIATED IN FEBRUARY). FAHUM
ASSERTED HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT TRIP; FURTHER JORDANIAN-
PALESTINIAN MEETINGS HAD NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED. FAHUM THEN

CRITICIZED KING HUSSEIN FOR REFUSING TO ACCEPT FEDAYEEN
PRESENCE IN JORDAN.

3. FAHUM NOTED HOWEVER, THAT PLO HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
IN STRENGTHENING ITS TIES WITH WEST BANK. HE SAID THAT PLO
CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING FORM OF "SISTER CITY"
PROGRAM BETWEEN SOME ARAB CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES ON WEST
BANK. BIZERTE IN TUNIS AND RIYADH HAVE EACH ALREADY AGREED
TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT ONE WB TOWN. THEY WILL SEND REGULAR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO PLO OFFICE IN AMMAN, TO BE DISBURSED TO
MAYORS OF THESE TOWNS WHEN THEY VISIT JORDAN. SOURCE SAID
FAHUM CLAIMED THIS PORCEDURE DOES NOT CONTRAVENE EXISTING
ISRAELI OCCUPATION REGULATIONS.

4. COMMENT: FAHUM'S NEW REASONING THAT INVITATION TO PLO
TO ATTEND GENEVA MEPC WOULD SUPERCEDE UNSC RES. 242 SUGGESTS
NOT ONLY THAT PLO WANTS INVITATION TO GENEVA BUT ALSO THAT
IT WILL BE ABLE TO RATIONALIZE ITS ATTENDANCE WITH
TRADITIONAL NON-ACCEPTANCE OF 242. REJECTION OF UNIFIED
DELEGATION WITH JORDAN IS TO BE EXPECTED AT THIS STAGE
WHEN DIFFICULT JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN RECONCILIATION TALKS HAVE
BARELY BEGUN.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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